



NHL Significance:

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important houses, architecturally in America. It is great because it is an original building for a powerful landscape which had previously been encrusted only with imported styles.”

Integrity:

- The property has been subject to few changes and retains a remarkable level of integrity, due in large part to continuity of occupancy: the original client lived there for thirty-five years and the present owner, a friend of the architect, for another thirty-five.
- Beyond maintenance, preservation, and restoration efforts, there have been minimal alterations made to the house, none of which have reduced the integrity of materials, location, design, setting, feeling, association, and workmanship. The house and gardens remain in excellent condition and powerfully convey John Yeon’s nationally-significant work of architecture.
- In 1996, to assure preservation of the house after his own lifetime, owner Richard Brown donated the house to the University of Oregon, establishing the John Yeon Center for Architectural Studies. With Brown as its president, the Yeon Charitable Trust created an endowment that will provide perpetual care.
- While Brown maintains a life estate in the Watzek House, the property will revert to the University of Oregon at his death, or whenever he vacates it. In the meantime, he makes the house available for tours by architects, architecture students, other interested students, and professionals.

Owner of Property: University of Oregon.

Acreage of Property: 3.62 acres

Origins of Nomination: The University of Oregon, with the recommendation of the John Yeon Advisory Board and the University of Oregon’s historic preservation program, hired a consulting firm to prepare the NHL nomination.

Potential for Positive Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:

- Designation as an NHL will bring recognition to an important American modern architect.
- It recognizes a house that helped to launch Northwest regional modernism; the spread of modernism throughout the United States occurred in large part via regional responses to the modern canon.

Potential for Negative Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program: None known.

Landmarks Committee Comments:

Landmarks Committee Recommendation: Designation. Dr. Carson moved, Dr. Seale seconded; unanimous approval.

Public Comments Favoring Designation (comments received as of 11/03/10):

Richard L. Lariviere, President, University of Oregon (owner)

Richard Louis Brown, Portland, Oregon (former occupant and owner)
Cathy Galbraith, Executive Director, Bosco-Milligan Foundation, Portland, Oregon
David Wu, U.S. Congressman, Oregon
Peter DeFazio, U.S. Congressman, Oregon
Ron Wyden, U.S. Senator, Oregon
Earl Blumenauer, U.S. Congressman, Oregon
Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor, Oregon
Art DeMuro, Chair, Historic Landmarks Commission, City of Portland
Frances Bronet, Dean, School of Architecture and Allied Arts, University of Oregon
Jeffrey A. Merkley, U.S. Senator, Oregon
Roger Roper, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Oregon

Advisory Board Recommendation: